

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of web logging using an instant message (IM) system, the method comprising:

identifying, to an IM host system, an interactive software agent that has a screen name and is configured to receive and respond to IMs from users of the IM host system;

receiving, at the interactive software agent, an IM from an IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender;

in response to receiving the IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent:

identifying, from among the users of the IM host system, ~~system and based on the IM,~~ the IM sender as the IM user [[that]] who sent the IM;

processing the IM to determine if the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender;

~~in response to a determination that the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender and based on identifying~~ having identified the IM sender as the IM user [[that]] who sent the IM, ~~identifying~~ identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM sender; and

based on having identified the IM sender as the IM user who sent the IM, based on determining that the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender, and based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM sender, adding the content included in the IM that was determined to be content

that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the web log is displayed in a web page publicly accessible through the Internet.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the displayed web log is password protected.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the web log is a regularly updated online journal including information of interest to an author of the web log.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein adding the content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender includes formatting the content included in the IM as a web log entry.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein formatting the content included in the IM as a web log entry includes time stamping the entry.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the users of the IM host system is identifiable to the IM host system by a unique screen name.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein identifying, from among the users of the IM host system, the IM sender as the IM user [[that]] who sent the IM includes identifying the IM sender as the IM user that sent the IM based on the unique screen name of the IM sender.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the web log associated with the IM sender as being associated with the IM sender involves querying a database with the unique screen name of the IM sender.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the web log associated with the IM sender as being associated with the IM sender includes:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ that two or more web logs are associated with the IM sender; and
~~if two or more web logs are associated with the IM sender,~~ prompting the IM sender to identify one of the two or more web logs; in response to determining that two or more web logs are associated with the IM sender.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein determining ~~[[if]]~~ that the IM sender is associated with two or more web logs involves querying a database with the unique screen name of the IM sender.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
after adding the content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender, generating a reply message to the IM sender, the reply message indicating that the content included in the IM was successfully added to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender as a web log entry; and
sending the reply message to the IM sender.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a reply message includes identifying the type of communications device used to send the IM.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein generating the reply message comprises doing so according to the capabilities of the communications device used to send the IM.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein generating the reply message includes generating a reply message that includes a notification that the IM sender can append one or more additional web log entries to the web log entry.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving [[an]] a new IM that includes additional content to append to the web log entry;
and
appending the additional content included in the new IM to the web log entry.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating the reply message includes generating a reply message that includes a notification that the [[user]] IM sender can edit the web log entry.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive software agent includes software configured to process messages received for inclusion in web log pages displayed on the Internet.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive software agent includes software configured to identify individual ones of the users of the IM host system on the basis of unique screen names associated with each of the multiple users.

20. (Currently amended) A method of enabling web logging using an instant message (IM) agent, the method comprising:
identifying an IM software agent to an IM host system;
receiving, at the IM software agent, an IM from one IM user of multiple IM users, wherein each of the multiple IM users is identifiable to the IM host system under a unique screen name; and
in response to receiving the IM from the one IM user:

identifying, from among the multiple IM users, the one IM user as the IM user
[[that]] who sent the IM based on the IM and a unique screen name of the one IM user;
processing the IM to determine if the IM includes content that is to be added to a
web log associated with the one IM user;

~~in response to a determination that the IM includes content that is to be added to a
web log associated with the one IM user and based on identifying~~ having identified the
one IM user as the IM user [[that]] who sent the IM, identifying identifying, from among
a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the one IM user; and

based on having identified the one IM user as the IM user who sent the IM, based
on determining that the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated
with the one IM user, and based on having identified the web log as being associated with
the one IM user, adding the content included in the IM that was determined to be content
that is to be added to a web log associated with the one IM user to the web log identified
as being associated with the one IM user.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving an IM comprises
receiving an IM from the one IM user ~~that sent an IM and addressed~~ to a common IM software
agent used by other IM users.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the web log is uniquely
associated with the one IM user.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the web log in a
web page publicly accessible through the Internet.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein identifying [[a]] the web log
as being associated with the one IM user includes:

querying a database with the unique screen name of the one IM user;

receiving query results identifying all web logs associated with the unique screen name of the one IM user; and

if two or more web logs are associated with the one IM user, prompting the one IM user to identify one of the two or more web logs.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein prompting the one IM user to identify one of the two or more web logs includes sending a reply IM to the one IM user, the reply IM identifying all of the web logs associated with the one IM user.

26. (Currently amended) A method of adding entries to a web log through an instant message (IM) system, the method comprising:

identifying an interactive software agent to an IM host system under a particular screen name;

receiving an IM addressed to the particular screen name, wherein the IM may be from any of at least two users identifiable to the IM host system;

in response to receiving the IM addressed to the particular screen name:

~~determining~~ determining, based on the IM, which one of the at least two users sent the IM;

processing the IM to determine if the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user who sent the IM;

~~in response to a determination that the IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user who sent the~~ based on having determined the user who sent the IM, identifying identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the user who sent the IM; and

based on having identified the web log as being associated with the user who sent the IM and based on determining that the IM includes content that is to be added to the web log associated with the user who sent the IM, adding the content included in the IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user

who sent the IM to the ~~identified web log~~, log identified as being associated with the user who sent the IM.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the at least two users identifiable to the IM host system have access to the IM host system.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
generating a reply to the user who sent the IM; and
sending the reply to the user who sent the IM.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the web log identified as being associated with the user who sent the IM is displayed in a web page publicly accessible through the Internet.

30. (Currently amended) A method of enabling web logging using an instant message (IM) interactive software agent, the method comprising:

connecting an IM interactive software agent to an IM host system, the IM interactive software agent having an IM screen name;

receiving a first IM from a first IM user, the first IM being sent to the IM screen name of the IM interactive software agent;

in response to receiving the first IM from the first IM user:

determining, based on the first IM, that the first IM user sent the first IM,

determining ~~[[if]]~~ that the first IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the first IM user,

~~in response to a determination that the first IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the first IM user, identifying~~ based on having determined that the first IM user sent the first IM, identifying, from among at least a first web log and

a second web log that is different from the first web log, the first web log as being associated with the first IM user, and

adding the content included in the first IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the first IM user to the first web log based on having determined that the first IM user sent the first IM, having determined that the first IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the first IM user, and having identified the first web log as being associated with the first IM user;

receiving a second IM from a second IM user who is different from the first IM user, the second IM being sent to the IM screen name of the IM interactive software agent; and

in response to receiving the second IM from the second IM user:

determining, based on the second IM, that the second IM user sent the second IM,

determining [[if]] that the second IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the second IM user,

in response to a determination that the second IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the second IM user, identifying a based on having determined that the second IM user sent the second IM, identifying, from among at least the first web log and the second web log, the second web log as being associated with the second IM user, and

adding the content included in the second IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the second IM user to the second web log based on having determined that the second IM user sent the second IM, having determined that the second IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the second IM user, and having identified the second web log as being associated with the second IM user.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first web log and the second web logs are distinct.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising:
receiving a third IM from the first IM user, the third IM being sent to the IM screen name
of the IM interactive software agent; and

in response to receiving the third IM from the first IM user:

determining, based on the third IM, that the first IM user sent the third IM,

determining ~~[[if]]~~ ~~that~~ the third IM includes content that is to be appended to the
content included in the first IM that was added to the first web log associated with the
first IM user; log,

based on having determined that the first IM user sent the third IM, identifying,
from among at least the first web log and the second web log, the first web log as being
associated with the first IM user, and

in response to a determination that the third IM includes content that is to be
appended to the content included in the first IM that was added to the first web log
associated with the first IM user, appending the content included in the third IM that was
determined to be content that is to be appended to the content included in the first IM that
was added to the first web log associated with the first IM user to the content included in
the first IM that was added to the first web log associated with the first IM user; based on
having determined that the first IM user sent the third IM, having determined that the
third IM includes content that is to be appended to the content included in the first IM
that was added to the first web log, and having identified the first web log as being
associated with the first IM user.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the first IM is received by
the IM interactive software agent before the third IM.

34. (Currently amended) A method of creating a web log through an instant message
(IM) system, the method comprising:

logging a web log software agent into an IM system under an IM screen name;

receiving an IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent from a user logged into the IM system; and

in response to receiving the IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent:

identifying, from among a group of users of the IM system and based on the IM, the user as having sent the IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent,

determining if the IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user,

based on having identified the user as having sent the IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent and based on a determination that the IM addressed to the IM screen name of the web log software agent includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user, determining whether if the user has a web log; and

[[if]] in response to a determination that the user does not have a web log:

creating a web log for the user;

adding the IM screen name of the web log software agent to a buddy list associated with the user; and

adding the content included in the IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the user to the created web log.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the contents of the IM includes text.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the contents of the IM includes a picture.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the contents of the IM includes audio.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the contents of the IM includes video.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein adding the IM screen name of the web log software agent to a buddy list associated with the user includes making the screen name of the web log software agent viewable in the buddy list.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein adding the IM screen name of the web log software agent to a buddy list associated with the user includes making the screen name of the web log software agent persistent in the buddy list.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein creating a web log for the user includes:

displaying a creation window allowing the user to enter information about the web log;
and
storing the information about the web log in a database.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the information about the web log includes identification of other users of the IM system as contributing editors on the web log.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the identification of each of the contributing editors includes an IM screen name associated with the contributing editor.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein creating a web log for the user includes:

prompting the user for a title to be associated with the web log;
receiving the title from the user;
prompting the user for a description to be associated with the web log; and
receiving the web log description from the user.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein prompting the user for a title to be associated with the web log and prompting the user for a description to be associated with the web log involves sending one or more IMs to the user.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the web log title and web log description are received through the IM system.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising enabling use of the buddy list to visually indicate the availability of the web log software agent to receive IMs from the user.

48. (Currently amended) A system for enabling web logging by one or more instant message (IM) users through an IM software agent, the system comprising:

an IM software agent identifiable to an IM host system, the IM software agent being configured to:

receive IMs sent by multiple IM users; and

for ~~[[each]]~~ a received IM:

based on the received IM, identify, from among the multiple IM users, an IM user who sent the received IM,

determine if the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM,

~~identify~~ identify, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM ~~in response to a determination that the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with~~ based on having identified the IM user as the user who sent the received IM, and

based on having identified the IM user as the user who sent the received IM, based on a determination that the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM, and based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM, store the content included in the received IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM as a web log entry in the identified web log; log identified as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, further comprising a database for storing help messages associated with the IM software agent.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the IM software agent is further configured to send help messages to each of the multiple users identifiable to the IM host system.

51. (Currently amended) A system for enabling web logging by multiple users of an instant message (IM) system, the system comprising:

a message processor configured to receive IMs from multiple users identifiable to an IM host system;

means for receiving an IM;

means for identifying, from among the multiple IM users and based on the received IM, an IM user who sent the received IM,

means for determining if [[each]] the received IM is to be added to a web log associated with [[each]] the user who sent the received IM;

means for identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with [[each]] the user who sent the received IM-determined-to-be-an-IM-that-is-to-be-added-to-a-web-log; IM; and

means for adding ~~[[each]]~~ the received IM to the identified web log based on having identified the IM user who sent the received IM, based on having determined to be an ~~that the IM~~ [[that]] is to be added to [[a]] the web log to the web log determined to be associated with the received IM. user who sent the received IM, and based on having identified the web log as being associated with the user who sent the received IM.

52. (Currently amended) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for identifying a web log as being associated with each received IM determined to be an IM that is to be added to a web log with the user who sent the received IM includes a database configured to store information on existing web logs.

53. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the database indexes each of the existing web logs by a screen name associated with the user who created the web log.

54. (Currently amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

receiving instant messages (IMs) from at least two IM users; and

for ~~each of the~~ a received IMs: IM:

identifying an IM user who sent the received IM,

determining if the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM,

~~identifying~~ identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the IM in response to a determination that the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM, and

based on identifying the IM user who sent the received IM, based on determining that the received IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM, and based on identifying the web log as being

associated with the IM user who sent the IM, storing the content included in the received IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM user who sent the received IM in the identified web log.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive software agent is an IM bot, such that:

identifying, to an IM host system, an interactive software agent that has a screen name and is configured to receive and respond to IMs from users of the IM host system includes identifying, to an IM host system, an IM bot that has a screen name and is configured to receive and respond to IMs from users of the IM host system; and

receiving, at the interactive software agent, an IM from an IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender includes receiving, at the IM bot, an IM from an IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the IM bot and that includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender.

56. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the screen name for the interactive software agent in an IM participant list for the instant message sender;

enabling the instant message sender to replace the screen name for the interactive software agent displayed in the IM participant list with an alias for the interactive software agent;

receiving a new IM addressed to the alias for the interactive software agent from the instant message sender; and

in response to receiving the new IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the alias for the interactive software agent:

based on the new IM identifying, from among the users of the IM host system, the IM sender as the IM user that sent the new IM;

processing the new IM to determine if the new IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender;

~~in response to a determination that the new IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender and based on identifying~~ having identified the IM sender as the IM user that sent the new IM, identifying a ~~identifying, from among the collection of web logs, the web log as being~~ associated with the IM sender; and

based on having identified the IM sender as the IM user who sent the new IM, based on determining that the new IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender, and based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM sender, adding the content included in the new IM that was determined to be content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, at the interactive software agent, another IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes an instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent but that does not include content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender;

in response to receiving the other IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent:

processing the other IM to determine if the other IM includes an instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent;

processing the other IM to determine if the other IM includes content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender; and

in response to a determination that the IM includes an instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent and a determination that the IM does not include content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender, executing the instruction

to be executed by the interactive software agent without adding any content included in the other IM to a web log associated with the IM sender.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 57 wherein:

receiving another IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes an instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent but does not include content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender includes receiving another IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes an instruction to delete, from the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender, the content that was included in the IM and added to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender; and

executing the instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent without adding any content included in the other IM to a web log associated with the IM sender includes deleting, from the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender, the content that was included in the IM and added to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving another IM from the IM sender that is addressed to a screen name for another user of the IM host system; and

delivering the other IM to the other user of the IM host system without adding any content included in the other IM to a web log associated with the IM sender.

60. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

displaying, to another user, the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender, including the content that was included in the IM and that was added to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender;

receiving, from the other user to whom the web log is displayed, additional content to add to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender; and

in response to receiving the additional content to add to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender, adding the additional content to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender.

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving, at the interactive software agent, another IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent and that includes an instruction to edit a post on a web log associated with the IM sender;

in response to receiving the other IM from the IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent:

identifying, from among the users of the IM host system, the IM sender as the IM user that sent the other ~~[[IM;]]~~ IM,

processing the other IM to determine if the other IM includes an instruction to be executed by the interactive software agent,

~~in response to a determination that the other IM includes an instruction to edit a post on a web log associated with the IM sender and~~ based on identifying the IM sender as the IM user that sent the other IM, identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the web log as being associated with the IM sender ~~on which a post is to be edited~~, sender, and

executing the instruction to edit the post on the web log identified as the web log associated with the IM sender on which a post is to be edited.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the content that is to be added to a web log associated with the IM sender includes text;
and
the method further comprises spell-checking the text after receiving the IM from the IM sender at the interactive software agent.